

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 CPR-02 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /131 W
----- 044213

R 281154 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, TO, GH

SUBJ: EYADEMA AND ACHEAMPONG TO OFFICIATE AT CEREMONIES

MARKING 24- HOUR OPENING AFLAO FRONTIER POST

REF: LOME 0518

1. GHANA AMBASSADOR TSITSIWU INFORMED ME LAST NIGHT THAT CEREMONIES MARKING 24 - HOUR OPENING AFLAO- LOME FRONTIER POST WILL TAKE PLACE 10:00 HOURS MARCH 31 WITH ATTENDANCE PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND NRC CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG, FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON PARTICIPATING DIGNITARIES IN LOME. HE ALSO SAID EYADEMA WOULD GO TO ACCRA MARCH 30 FOR SIGNING OF AGREEMENT FORMALLY ESTABLISHING PERMANENT MIXED GHANAIAN- TOGOLESE COOPERATION COMMISSION AGREED TO BY FORMINS AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 2972 MEETING IN LOME.

2. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR ASSURED ME DIPLOMATIC CORPS WOULD BE INVITED TO FRONTIER CEREMONIES AND SOME OF RELATED FUNCTIONS ON 31 ST, TO DATE NO NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED NOR HAS EVENT BEEN MENTIONED IN LOCAL PRESS OR RADIO. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS OF
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JRPT AND UNFT HAVE CONFIRMED THEY ARE ROUNDING UP THE YOUTH AND WOMEN TO PROVIDE THE AUDIENCE AND LOCAL COLOR, AND WE HAVE OBSERVED STANDS AND APATAMS BEING ERRECTED AT FRONTIER, SO IT APPEARS CEREMONY IS DEFINITELY ON.

3. EYADEMA HAS NOT TO DATE MADE THE RETURN VISIT TO GHANA WHICH PROTOCOL DEMANDS FOLLOWING AS CAN BE PREDICTED AS WE TRY TO BRING EAST TO NEGOTIATING TABLE, WHETHER WE SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO STOCKPILE SERGEANTS FOR WHATEVER USE WHEN AND IF MBFR AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

C. DIA ARGUMENT CONCERNING STAFFING OF FRENCH ATTACHED OFFICE, EVEN IF OTHERWISE RELEVANT, SUFFERS FROM FAILURE TO NOTE THAT FRENCH REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO ATTACHE COOPERATIVE TRAVEL PROGRAM AND MUST THEREFORE OPERATE AUTONOMOUSLY. DEPT MIGHT OFFER TO ABSTAIN FROM COUNTER-ARGUMENT FOR STAFFING BASED UPON SIZE OF CANADIAN (ONE OFFICER, ONE NCO), ITALIAN (ONE OFFICER, ONE NGO) OR TURKISH (ONZAKNPTZUKL OFFICES IF DAI DROPS FRENCH ARGUMENLLM

2. DETERMINATION THAT DAO STAFFING OF TWO OFFICERS TWO NCOS AND TWO SECRETARIES IS SUBSTANTIALLY EXCESSIVE WAS MADE ON BASIS OF NUMBER OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT FACTORS. THESE INCLUDE, MOST CONSPICUOUSLY (1) ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION UNDER SAS, (2) JUDGMENT OF DOD IG INSPECTOR AND FS INSPECTORS, AND (3) JUDGMENT OF DATT.

3. WE ARE NOT RAISING QUESTION OF HOW MANY ATTACHE OFFICERS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, SINCE ONLY FUNCTION OF SUPPORT STAFF IS TO SUPPORT ATTACHES, WORKLOAD OF LATTER IS RELEVANT. DURING PAST WO YEARS (EXCLUDING SECOND HALF OF 1972 WHEN ONE OR BOTH OFFICERS WERE ABSENT) AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT ON PRINCIPAL DAO ACTIVITY, I. E. OBSERVATION TRAVEL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WAS 3-5 DAYS PER MONTH FOR ARMY ATTACHE AND 2-4 DAYS PER MONTH FOR AIR ATTACHE. MANY OF THESE TRIPS DRAW BLANKS AND GENERATE NO REPORT OR FOLLOW- UP. THIS BEGS QUESTION OF HOW MUCH STAFF SUPPORT WORK CAN CONCEIVABLY BE GENERATED.

4. SIZE OF DAO ESTABLISHMENT AS PART OF EMBASSY IS AT LEAST SECONDARY FACTOR IN EQUATION. EMBASSY' S POLITICAL FUNCTION IS HANDLED BY TWO OFFICERS AND HALF OF ONE SECRETARY' S TIME, ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL WORK (INCLUDING SUPPORT OF BURGEONING TRADE NOW APPROACHING \$100 MILLION)

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BY TWO OFFICERS, ONE FSL AND OTHER HALF OF SECRETARY' S TIME, AND PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION (RUNNING LIBRARY, FILM PROGRAM, EXCHANGE PROGRAM, ETC.) BY TWO OFFICERS, ONE SECRETARY AND FOULR FSLs. DAO, WITH SIX AMERICAN AND TWO FSL POSITIONS (AND LIMITED COLLECTION PROGRAM) WOULD EXCEED ALL THESE IN OVERALL SIZE, AND EXCEEDS ALL IN AMERICANS EVEN AT CURRENT STRENGTH. THESE ANOMALIES ARE FULLY APPARENT TO ALL CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY WHEN PUNCTUATED BY SUCH INCIDENTALS AS DAO MOTOR POOL (TWO SEDANS, ONE STATION WAGON) WHICH EQUALS NUMBER OF EMBASSY VEHICLES OF THOSE TYPES AND WITH TWO DRIVERS AGAINST THREE FOR EMBASSY.

5. WE HAVE LEARNED (STATE 039052) THAT DIA SUSPECTS THAT DESIRE TO ACQUIRE HOUSING UNDERLIES EMBASSY ACTION. WHILE AVAILABILITY OF VACATED APARTMENT MAKES POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL COMMERCIAL OFFICE, SATISFYING HIGH PRIORITY REQUIREMENT, THIS IS ENTIRELY INCIDENZL EFFECT, AND NOT CAUSE OF ACTION.

6. IT WILL HOPEFULLY BE CLEAR FROM ABOVE THAT I AM THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT STAFFING REDUCTION IS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED. GIVEN THE DIRECTIVES IN PRESIDENT NIXON' S LETTER OF DECEMBER 9, 1969 I AM AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY DIA HAS MADE SUCH ISSUE OF MINOR STAFF ADJUSTMENTS.
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